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NSC BRIEFING

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October 1954

SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

I. Government paralysis continues.

- A. Diem stays in only because opposition fear remove him physically.
- B. Coup rumors recur but plotters lack necessary assurance of French non-interference.
- C. Army attache believes Hinh supported by majority of army; but troop morale low.
- D. Trip to Manila arranged for two Hinh henchmen.

II. Diem resisting opposition demands.

- A. Awaiting arrival brother with word from Bao Dai. (Friday
- B. Bao Dai's entourage deep in intrigue involving premiership.

DIA review(s)
completed.

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III. French still hold key.

- A. They can keep Binh under wraps through control of his troops' pay, supply.
- B. French agreed support Diem only to please us, according Deputy Commissioner General.
- C. He sees French future in a disguised Cochinchina protectorate.
- D. Mendes-France refers to plan for Bao Dai to send "viceroy" to Saigon with "no power to interfere."
- E. But Bao Dai's cousins Buu Hoi and Buu Loc likely candidates for job, have been intriguing against Diem.

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17. Crisis in Saigon gives Viet Minh virtually free hand elsewhere.

A. Army attaché estimates under present trend by late 1955 they will dominate coalition government or have completely taken over all but cities.

B. ~~Chau de~~* fighting between Cao Dai and Hoa Hao Sect armies (several hundred involved) evidence of general anarchy

* 100 mi W of Saigon

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C. Fighting this week near Cambodian
border between Cao Dai and Hoa Hao
(several hundred involved) evidence
of growing anarchy.

V. Declaration of Neil +
Administration Committee
of Hanoi - Do not
recognize the Quenon
Committee

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